

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-26, and 29-30 are pending. By way of this Amendment, claims 27 and 28 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 28. Accordingly, full support for this Amendment exists and no questions of new matter should arise.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner maintains that the term "immobilized alkali" has multiple meanings. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the cancellation of claim 27, this rejection is moot. However, applicants stand by their comments made in the previous responses. One skilled in the art understands the term "immobilized alkali," and this is further supported in chemical dictionaries, wherein the term "alkali" clearly means a substance that is in a water solution and has a pH value greater than 7.0. The use of the term "alkali" to modify a noun, such as the term "alkali metal," is not considered to be the same as the term "alkali." Another suitable term for "alkali" is the term "base."

Rejection of claims 1-6, 9-26, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

At page 4 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-26, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mancini et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,056,496) in view of Mitra et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,212,015) as evident in Goto et al. (U.S. Patent No.

3,845,164) and Williamson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,239,298). The Examiner essentially relied on the reasons set forth in the Office Action of June 15, 2007. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To avoid repeating the same arguments, the applicants believe that the invention clearly is patentably different from this combination of references for the reasons previously set forth and which are of record. Claims 1 and 22 have now been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 28, which was not part of this rejection. Therefore, for this reason alone, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, it is noted that none of the references relied upon by the Examiner make use of an immobilized alkali or an immobilized base, such as an immobilized hydroxide. Accordingly, the use of such an immobilized source for purposes of neutralizing the complex reaction set forth in the pending claims is one additional reason for the patentability of the present invention over the cited references.

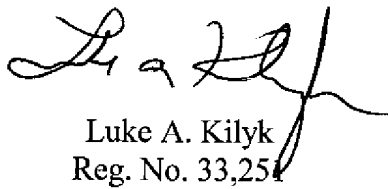
Accordingly, for the previous reasons of record and these additional reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0925. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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